

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 672

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS - AEGEAN NEGOTIATIONS AND CYPRUS

REF: ATHENS 0079 (NOTAL)

1. ON JANUARY 21, THE MFA ACTING DIRECTOR FOR CYPRIOT
AND TURKISH AFFAIRS, MACRIS, GAVE THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR
A BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON WHERE THINGS STAND WITH RESPECT
TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE ISSUE AND THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND CYPRUS.

2. AIR SPACE -- MACRIS SAID THAT THE MFA AND TURKISH
AMBASSADOR TEZEL HAVE HAD SOME EXCHANGES IN AN EFFORT TO
RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES REMAINING ON THE AEGEAN
AIR SPACE ISSUE. THESE ARE NOT "NEGOTIATIONS" BUT
INVOLVE GIVING TEZEL COMMENTS OR PROPOSALS WHICH HE
PASSES TO ANKARA AFTER WHICH HE DELIVERS ANKARA'S
REPLY TO THE MFA. MACRIS SAID VERY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN
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MADE SO FAR THROUGH THIS PROCEDURE IN RESOLVING THE REMAINING
DIFFERENCES. HE CLAIMED THE GREEKS HAVE TRIED TO
ACCOMMODATE TURKISH POSITIONS (FOR EXAMPLE, THE GREEKS
HAD FOUND A WAY TO ACCEDE TO TURKISH INSISTENCE THAT THE
TERM FIR NOT BE USED IN THE AGREEMENT), BUT THE TURKS
DID NOT SEEM WILLING TO GIVE AT ALL.

3. MACRIS SAID THIS LACK OF PROGRESS WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN UP BY FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WHEN THEY MEET IN STRASBOURG JANUARY 29 FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING.

4. CONTINENTAL SHELF -- MACRIS SAID THE MINISTERS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO DECIDE ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS. TLTHOUGH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED EARLIER FOR THE MIXED COMMITTEE TO MEET IN LONDON ON JANUARY 31, SOME TIME HAD PASSED AND THE MINISTERS WOULD HAVE TO RECONFIRM THE TIME AND PLACE.

5. CYPRUS -- MACRIS SAID IT WAS HARD TO SAY WHAT THE NEXT MOVE SHOULD BE ON CYPRUS. THE SITUATION ON THE ISLAND GAVE NO HOPE THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD BE RESUMED SOON, HOWEVER, THE GOG DID NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD TAKE ANY INITIATIVE BUT WAS READY TO CONSIDER ANY IDEAS OR PROPOSALS OTHERS MIGHT HAVE. THE GOG'S POSITION CONTINUED TO BE THAT IT WAS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS TO MAKE THE DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO A SETTLEMENT, AND THE GOG SAW ITSELF IN A SUPPORTIVE ROLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THE GOG WAS READY TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN NICOSIA IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A SETTLEMENT.
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